



Van Buskirk Assumes Command of CCSG9

By MC3 JAMES R. EVANS
Penny Press staff

Rear Adm. Scott Van Buskirk relieved Rear Adm. John W. Goodwin as Commander, Carrier Strike Group Nine in a change of command ceremony held Monday aboard Strike Group Nine's flagship, USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) moored at Naval Base Kitsap Bremerton.

"It is a pleasure and an honor to be back in the Pacific Northwest, and especially to become part of the Abraham Lincoln Strike Group," Van Buskirk said.

Van Buskirk graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1979 and spent much of his career aboard submarines, including tours as executive officer of USS Georgia (SSBN 729) and as commanding officer of USS Pasadena (SSN 752). He was selected for flag officer in 2004 and, before taking command of Carrier Strike Group Nine, served as Commander, Task Force Total Force, which was established in 2004 to oversee the development of the Navy's Human Capital Strategy.

Commander, Third Fleet Vice Adm. Barry M. Costello, the guest speaker for the ceremony, said that Van Buskirk is only the second submarine officer ever to take command of a carrier strike group.

"It's the right thing to do, he's the right person for the job, and as far as I know this is only the second time this has happened; it's indicative of the strength of his leadership," Costello said.

Carrier Strike Group Nine is comprised of Abraham Lincoln, Carrier Air Wing Two, Destroyer Squadron Nine and its asso-



Photo By MC3 James R. Evans

Rear Adm. Scott Van Buskirk addresses the audience as Rear Adm. John W. Goodwin looks on during a change of command ceremony held Monday aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). Van Buskirk relieved Goodwin as Commander, Carrier Strike Group Nine during the ceremony which was held in Lincoln's Hangar Bay Two.

ciated ships; USS Mobile Bay (CG 53), USS Ingraham (FFG 61), USS Shoup (DDG 86), USS Ford (FFG 54), USS Momsen (DDG 92), USS Curtis (FFG 38), USS Rodney M. Davis and USS Russell (DDG 59).

The strike group commander's duties are to oversee operational training and readiness for the entire group and to maintain administrative functions and material war fighting readiness

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Two CS-5 Sailors Recognized For Superior Performance

By MC2 (AW) JEREMIE YODER
Penny Press staff

Interior Communication Electrician Second Class (SW) Brian Ondich and Interior Communication Electrician Third Class (SW/AW) Robin Senger, both USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) Sailors from Combat Systems Department's 5th Division (CS-5), were named

Sailor of the Quarter for their department for their respective paygrades.

The Sailors of the Quarter are chosen from among their peers for a variety of things including leadership, development of subordinates, professional excellence, and qualifications.

Throughout the past seven months, each department aboard USS Abraham Lincoln has played an essential role in support of the

ship's Dry-Dock Planned Incremental Availability. However, few shipboard divisions can say that the visibility or breadth of their department's responsibilities are as great as CS-5 can claim.

Ondich, Combat System's Junior Sailor of the Quarter was singled out by his department

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General Quarters Drills Keep V-3 Ready For The Fight

By MCSN KATHLEEN CORONA
Penny Press staff

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) is testing and preparing for flight operations; even before the ship has finished its scheduled dry-dock planned incremental availability at Naval Base Kitsap, Bremerton.

V-3, a division in Abe's air department, is running its own departmental General Quarters (GQ) drills to prepare their team members for any situation that could occur when the aircraft are in the ship's hangar bays.

"We're working on getting ourselves back up to speed," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate Handler 1st Class Lindbergh Wesley, V-3's Hangar Deck Petty Officer.

According to Wesley, V-3 is working on aircraft firefighting in the hangar bays.



Photo By MCSN Kathleen Corona
Sailors from Lincoln's Air Department practice fighting a simulated fire in Hangar Bay 2 during Wednesday's General Quarters (GQ) drill.

"We're just going over all the basics to refresh everyone; from how many men per hose to how to properly relieve the nozzle man,"

he said.

Firefighting in the hangar bays is a lot different than it is on the flight deck, Wesley said.

"There are certain procedures on the flight deck, like turning the ship into the wind to de-smoke the area, we cannot do in the hangar bays," he said.

According to Wesley, V-3 is using the "walk, crawl, run" approach to their training.

"We're starting with the basics until we're ready for a full-blown drill when anything and everything can happen," he said.

All of V-3 participates in the drills, Wesley said, sometimes joined by weapons.

"We're the first and last line of defense if anything happens in the hangar bays, and we want to make sure that we're ready for everything," he said.

V-3 department's intense training will prepare them for the best and worst that can happen in the hangar bays. By training for everything, they'll be able to combat anything that could happen when the aircraft arrive on board.



Today in women's history, March 30, 1932

Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.



Had a drink? Get a ride!
Call (425)530-1934 for Abe's Smart Ride.
A phone call now can save you a headache later.



Movie tickets are on sale in the MWR office for \$5 each. Tickets can be purchased for Regal and AMC/Lowes theaters.



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Lincoln Pride



PHOTOS BY
MC3 JAMES EVANS
MCSN RONALD DALLATORRE
MCSN BRANDON WILSON

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for his leadership and work in preserving the mission-readiness of his division's spaces, including the ship's satellite receivers, new navigation equipment on the bridge, and various sponsons.

"I am willing to take charge," Ondich said. "When something needs to get done, I am willing to do it."

According to Electronics Technician Chief (SW/AW) Stephen English, Ondich has the ability to do even the most common of tasks proficiently and calmly.

English said Ondich just doesn't get rattled and has a calming influence on the junior personnel, especially in light of the Navy's ever-changing environment.

Senger, the Combat System's Junior Petty Officer of the Quarter entered the Navy a few years later than the typical Sailor, and her maturity has helped to set her apart from her peers.

Within her workcenter, Senger is responsible for everything pertaining to TV distribution, though she is also involved in many other programs for which her division has recently sent her to training.

"I do feel a bit of pressure because our division is taking on a lot of new responsibility, and due to the time I have left on the ship and my ability to handle responsibility, I am being placed in a leadership position on several of those things."

English said he was confident Senger was able to handle her new responsibilities.



Photo By MC2 (AW) Jeremie Yoder

Combat Systems Department Sailors Of the Quarter Interior Communication Electrician Second Class (SW) Brian Ondich and Interior Communication Electrician Third Class (SW/AW) Robin Senger, both from Combat Systems Department's 5th Division (CS-5), perform maintenance on video tape recorders in Lincoln's T.V. Control.

"She is one of the finest junior petty officers that I have met in a long time," English said. "She arrived aboard the ship just over a year ago and she 'hit the deck running'."

English also noted that she has wasted no time in obtaining her qualifications, having already attained both her Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist and Enlisted Air Warfare Specialist Designators.

"She is a crucial member of my TV team, and the excellence of her work has been recognized

by the department (Combat Systems) before this," English said.

English said these two Sailors stand out within their division and on the ship because of their positive attitudes. Both attribute this for a great deal of their success.

"You don't always have to agree with your superiors," Senger said. "Just do your job."

Ondich added that being on time and maintaining a positive mental attitude go a long way toward achieving success in the Navy.



Attention All Baseball Fans!

MWR will be hosting a trip to the Seattle Mariners Fan Appreciation Game Tuesday April 3. The Mariners will be playing the Oakland Athletics at Safeco field. The Cost is \$10 for 300 level seats and \$25 for 100 level seats. This includes transportation to the ferry (at 1430 and 1545 departing at the end of the pier to the Bremerton ferry terminal and returning from the terminal at 2330), pre-game function in the bull en with food and beverages for the first 100 tickets sold, and a Mariners hat. All ticket holders will receive early liberty to get to the bus on time. Stop by MWR for more details.

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support for ships and squadrons.

"This appointment is truly a dream come true, and it's very humbling," Van Buskirk said. "I look forward to working with the men and women of the strike group staff and each ship in the group."

Departing Rear Adm. John W. Goodwin served as Commander, Carrier Strike Group Nine since Sept. 7, 2005. Under his leadership, the strike group completed a Western Pacific Deployment, which included participation in the massive U.S. joint forces exercise Valiant Shield and the multinational Rim of the Pacific and Foal Eagle exercises.

Goodwin is expected to transfer to Norfolk, Va. where he will assume the duties of Commander, Naval Air Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.



Photo By MCSN Ronald A. Dallatorre

USS Abraham Lincoln's color guard parades the colors during a Change of Command ceremony for Carrier Strike Group Nine held aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN) 72.

DESRON 9 Change of Command

By MCSN BRANDON C. WILSON

Penny Press staff

Capt. James T. Loeblein assumed command as Commodore, Destroyer Squadron NINE in a ceremony onboard USS Momsen (DDG 92) moored at Naval Station Everett Friday, March 23.

"I am both humbled and motivated beyond words to serve as Commodore," Loeblein said. "It is a responsibility I do not take lightly."

For 20 years, Loeblein served aboard various ships including USS Meyerkord (FF 1058), USS Conolly (DD 979) and USS John S. McCain (DDG 56). Loeblein most recently commanded USS Thatch (FFG 43), where he participated in both Carrier Strike Group (CSG) and Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) deployments to the Arabian Gulf as part of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

Prior to being relieved as commodore, Capt. Jeffrey A. Harley gave his best wishes to Loeblein, and showed his appreciation for what Loeblein will soon be tasked to do.

"(I have) gratitude to a fellow mariner, genuine patriot, and my friend Capt. Jim Loeblein," Harley said, "who will take this DESRON to new heights."

As the new commodore, Loeblein expressed his eagerness to lead his new



Photo By MCSN Brandon C. Wilson

Captain James T. Loeblein delivers his speech as the new Commodore, Destroyer Squadron Nine aboard the USS Momsen (DDG 92) March 23, 2007. Loeblein, the former executive assistant of Commander, U.S. Third Fleet, relieved Captain Jeffrey A. Harley after 17 months as Commodore.

shipmates of DESRON NINE.

"I have prepared both personally and professionally over many years for this occasion," said Loeblein. "Not for prestige or power, but because it provides something not found in any other profession. It offers the unique opportunity to lead the finest core of professionals America has to offer."

Harley is expected to report to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City as a military fellow.

Welcome Aboard USS Lincoln

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72)

would like to welcome the following Sailors on board:



AA Kristina Davis
AC2 Alan Archbold
AC2 Lawrence Williams
AC3 Cynthia Leshar
AE2 Howard Jarrell Jr.
AN Tou Vue
AOAA Quintin King
AOAN Paul Gittens
AOAN Troy Douglas
AR Jordan Daigle
AR Michael Jackson
ASAA Jeffrey Karnes
ATAR Mason Jones.
AZAN Tevis Clark
DC1 Phillip Losier
DCFA Robert Gamble
EM3 David Villagomez
EMFA Thomas Walker
EMFR Vernon Helmsbolt
ET2 Anthony Souza

ET3 Jomie Tebbetts
ET3 Stephanie Davidson
ETC Jeremy Gross
HMC Dennis Moore
HTFN Joshua Johnson
HTFR Adam Pearson
HTFR Alan Wheeler
HTFR Jose Garcia
ICFA Amila West
IT1 Evelyn Culla
MM3 Christopher Racino
MM3 Jeremy Martin
MM3 Marten Cardini
MM3 Patrick Grant Jr.
MM3 Sarah Korte
MMFN Adrian Gardner
MMFN Kyle Gish
MMFR Edward Lee
MMFR Stephen Gibbs
MMFR Zachery Boddicke

MRFR Timothy Moody
SA Philip Oleck
SKSN Thomas Egge
SKSR David Cronin
SKSR Samantha Herila
SR Anthony Berreman
SR Archie Bailey
SR Chase Butler



Local Stories



Shipmates

The strength of a warship lies in the hearts and hands of its crew.



Photo by MCSN Ronald Dallatorre

Lincoln's AIMD Officer Commander Gary Hackaday presents Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class Brad Curtis with the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Wednesday.

Editor's Top 10

Things Overheard During March Madness...

10. "Duke got beat by WHO?"
9. "Tickets start at \$125, beer is \$7 a cup and hot dogs are \$4. This is amateur athletics at its finest!"
8. "Who can I hate now that Duke and Bobby Knight are both out?"
7. "Men, I guess I should've explained: Just because we're a 'Cinderella team' doesn't mean we show up in formal gowns and glass slippers."
6. "Get back to work? But sir, it's March!"
5. "This is the greatest comeback ever!!!"
4. "Your water broke? I'll get you another glass at the next time out."
3. "I'm sorry, I thought VCU was a social disease."
2. "We're not supposed to call it that anymore, now it's March Mental Illness."
1. "My team? Overrated. My first-round loss? Unprecedented. My bet-paying card? American Express

Touring Lincoln

Capt. C.A. McCawley, Commanding Officer, USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72), along with officers from Lincoln's Air Department, provides Rear Adm. Scott Van Buskirk, Commander, Carrier Strike Group 9, with a tour of the ship's flight deck and its various components. Van Buskirk recently relieved Rear Adm. Bill Goodwin as Commander, and is familiarizing himself with the Lincoln and other ships within the strike group.



Photo by MCSN Brandon Wilson